

I am He: Jesus Presents Himself as Safety in the midst of the Storm.  
Matthew 14:22-33. Some of my fondest memories of childhood are those of singing with my parents at Straightaway Baptist Church on Sand

Mtn. Daddy was learning to play the guitar I was probably 6 or 7. When we would go up to sing Daddy would reach into the choir and get one of these old wooden chairs, set it behind the pulpit for me to stand on. As Mama would hold my sister Karen, we would sing a handful of different songs, stepping on the clouds, I can't even walk... but my favorite was "Till the Storm Passes by" The Chorus goes. What a truth that is illustrated in that song and proclaimed in our text. Jesus here is presenting himself in the midst of this Storm

with the phrase it is I, and proves to His disciples that he is I. There is Safety in the Intercession of Christ (vs 22-24)

After Christ's feeding of 5000, Jn 6:15 says that they would make him King. This being contrary to God's plan Jesus separates himself from the crowd, and <sup>(separates)</sup> goes away. Disciples.

A. Safety in the Placement of Jesus - Jesus is interceding to put his disciples in the boat. No doubt they were as taken up with this earthly kingship mood and put them in this boat. Word constrained: compelled, or forced. Christ in his omniscience knew that he was placing them in what would be a perilous situation. Yet he forced them into it. Apply: we can have confidence that the one that places can <sup>deliver</sup>

B. Safety in the Promise of Jesus - It could be easily missed, quickly forgotten, but there is a promise in Jesus' direction to His disciples



He gave the promise that you are going to go to the other side. So often we ~~overlook~~ look the promises that God has given us before the storm, in the midst of the storm. Jesus interceded in our concerning storms with His word.

C. Safety in the Praying of Jesus - vs 23 What a vivid picture of Christ's High Priestly ministry. Recently heard: Prophet stands before the people in God's behalf but a priest stands before God on the behalf of the people. Here we see Christ in the interceding role of High Priest. Calling on the Father in behalf of disciples. I remember reading Robert M. McHenry: if he could hear Jesus praying... Get this is the role of Christ.

D. Safety in the Perception of Jesus (vs 24) - During this separation, we see that the storm hits. But despite the distance, Jesus perceives their distress & difficulty. Mark 6:48. He was not disconnected from His disciples. not he saw the strain of their struggle, he saw the danger of the conditions. Their storm did not by outside the view of peace speaker. From our vantage point it may seem

II. There is safety in the Intervention of Christ Christ not only intercedes at a distance, but he is also involved and active in our storms. He intervenes on our behalf. There is safety in knowing that he is working + active.

A. Safety came at an Unexpected Point - vs 25 Jesus came into them during the fourth watch. This is a time between 3am - 6am. This scene of the storm came right on the heels of the feeding of the five thousand. When do you get hungry? Probably at during the first watch 6-9pm. Meaning close to 6 hours in storm. It seems as though Jesus came at the best moment when all hope is lost.

'Till the storm passes over, 'till the thunder sounds no more, Till the clouds roll forever from the sky, Hold me fast let me stand in the hollow of thy hand. Keep me safe 'till the storm passes by.

Matthew 28:20 ...lo, I am with you alway, even unto the end of the world. Amen.

John 14:1 Let not your heart be troubled: ye believe in God, believe also in me.

John 14:27 Peace I leave with you, my peace I give unto you: not as the world giveth, give I unto you. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid.

John 14:3 And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you unto myself; that where I am, there ye may be also.

Romans 8:38-39 For I am persuaded, that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor powers, nor things present, nor things to come, Nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature, shall be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Children of God we do have a Great High Priest that is (Romans 8:34)...even at the right hand of God, who ... maketh intercession for us. My little children (1 John 2:1) we have an advocate with the Father; a mediator between God and men (1 Timothy 2:5) that according to Hebrew 7:25 ...ever liveth to make intercession for us: He is the man Jesus Christ the righteous.

Mark 6:48 And he saw them toiling in rowing; for the wind was contrary unto them...

...it may seem that He is a thousand miles away, but if His eye is on the sparrow then I know He watches me!

Oh and how often does God come to us in unexpected, unprecedented ways that we would never anticipate.

Burkitt - See how the disciples take their deliverer to be a destroyer: their fears were highest when their deliverer and deliverance were nearest. God may be coming with salvation and deliverance for his church, when she for the present cannot discern him.



B. Safely came on an Unprecedented Path vs 25-d  
have been Matthew puts it... into them, walking on the sea.  
6. Jaw dropping, eye popping statement. Something like  
this had never been seen before. Unprecedented! All three  
gospel accounts yield the same 3 greek words. Walking on top of the  
sea. He could have calmed the sea from the shore or mtn. But the  
point of the storm is not the calming it is seeing Christ as never before.

C. Safely came as an Unrecognizable Presence vs 26-  
Please place yourself in the sandals of disciples. It's 3 am  
in morning, it is pitch dark. Fight to stay afloat for  
hours, and in a flash of lightning you see a low figure draw  
ing closer and closer. It would (as mama would say) scare the  
daylights out of any of us. Terrier! Deliverance is at hand  
but it is unrecognizable from those in storm. Powerful <sup>Burke</sup> silent

D. Safely came in an Unmistakable Phrase - Then  
he spoke! vs 27 It is I! Here we find our theme word  
Jesus presents Himself. Here I am. Climb right here!  
I am present in your distresses! Has the storm been  
calmed? Have waves ceased? No! Then how could we  
possibly hear of good cheer? How could their fears possibly  
subside? Because "It is I." It's Him! Christ is on the scene.

III. There is Safety in an Encounter w/ Christ  
Although the accounts of Mark + John do not have  
the further water walking experience, our text in

Matthew does. It gives us further application  
in this theme of the Safety that Jesus extends to us.  
A. Safety in His Directing vs 29 Peter here rubbing  
the spray of the sea from his eyes calls out  
to Jesus asking to come out on the water w/ Him



I know Peter was impetuous, he jumped the gun, said the wrong thing some times, but you gotta love his zeal and desire to fully experience his Lord and Saviour. Christ hides him "cane". Here we can find safety for our exploits, and our steps of faith, in our ventures <sup>forwards</sup> Christ in knowing He is guiding, He is directing. Peter didn't <sup>sure</sup>

B. Safety in Our Distractions vs 30 - Things were going pretty good until Peter set his eyes on the winds and waves around him then he began to sink. But yet he did not perish. He was distracted by the circumstances, and began to sink yet, he was rescued by the Saviour. I know that in this life we should be Heb 12:2 and Philippians 3:14, but so many times in storms we get distracted, and fearful. Thank God he doesn't cast us off, let us sink to the bottom. <sup>Oh what grace</sup>

C. Safety in Our Distresses - Although there is safety in our distractions, they still cause us to sink. Peter's situation has gone from bad to worse. He was in the boat on the stormy seas, but now he's sinking in the water on the stormy seas. With a fleeting cry, he calls on the Lord for saving, and he responds! He reached out and saves Peter from certain death. In a moment's notice Christ responds. What a truth! In many of our darkest <sup>darkest</sup> and distressing moments he has reached out to save. Don't let distractions

IV. Closing - One bible commentator said: "I do not know what storm you are weathering, but I know that Christ is walking the sea. He is interceding with the father, he is reaching out to save! Come today, he assured that He perceives your storm and is coming."

Hebrews 12:2 Looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of our faith...

Philippians 3:14 pressing toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus.

It is a sufficient support in all our afflictions to hear Christ's voice speaking to us, and to enjoy his favourable presence with us. Say but, O Saviour, **It is I**; and then let evils do their worst: that one word, **It is I**, is enough to lay all storms, and to calm all tempests. <